Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 SSO-00 /017 W

----- 123156

O 140009Z AUG 76 FM AMEMBASSY QUITO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1173

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 5771

PASS OP-61 FOR ADMIRAL BARROW

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS

CNO WASHDC

SUBJ: LST FOR ECUADOR

REF: CNO 0715042 AUG 76

- 1. I AM INFORMED THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN DOD HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ECUADOR DESK WITH THE PROPOSAL THAT DOD CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON PEOPLE START IMMEDIATELY TO LOBBY WITH THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON BAHALF OF THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE LST TO ECUADOR.
- 2. THIS EMBASSY AND THE ECUADOR DESK HAVE WORKED ASSIDUOUSLY TO GET CONGRESSMAN WILSON AND HIS STAFF ON BOARD. HE IS ABSOLUTELY KEY ON THIS QUESTION AND SO FAR HE HAS DELIVERED ON HIS PROMISES. I THINK IT LIKELY THAT HE WILL OVERCOME THE REMAINING OBSTACLES ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I.E. BY PERSUASION OR IN A TEST OF VOTING STRENGTH.
- 3. I AM DUMBFOUNDED AS TO WHY SOMEONE IN DOD SHOULD NOW WISH TO RISK UPSETTING WILSON BY APPROACHING HIS COLLEAGUES OR THIE STAFFS AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE SCENARIO CALLS FOR DECISIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY WILSON'S OFFICE ON AUGUST 23 WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES. THUS, THERE IS NOTHING TO GAIN BY TAKING ACTION NOW. SECOND, WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH WILSON CONFIDENTIAL

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TO LET HIM HANDLE THE CONGRESSIONAL ANGLE. IT IS

OBVIOUS THAT HE PREFERS TO USE QUIET PERSUASION ON HIS
COLLEAGUES, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE HAS OTHER FISH TO FRY
WITH THEM AND DOES NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION ON THIS
PARTICULAR ISSUE. I STRONGLY URGE THAT WE LET HIM
PLAY OUT HIS HAND.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: LEGISLATORS, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY SALES

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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